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## The Times' Daily Short Story.

### A Test Of Nerve

(Original.)

"So your father insists upon your marrying the big soldier, Lisa?" said the doctor.

"He does."

"And you wish to marry that pale faced boy, Hans, who dreams and writes verses?"

"I love him."

"Well, my child, I must see what I can do for you."

The next morning Colonel Visser, Lisa's father, received a call from the doctor.

"I came to see you about your daughter," said the latter. "She has no disease, and yet her health is not good. Some mental trouble is wearing on her."

"Yes; she wants to marry that miserable poet, while I want her to marry a thorough man."

"You, being a soldier, think all the bravery is among military men. This poet may have more courage in that frail body of his than your major."

"If I thought that I would give Lisa to Hans."

"Why not put the two men to a test?"

"I am agreeable to that."

"And give Lisa to the one that stands it the better."

"Then she will go to the major. But what test would you suggest, doctor?"

"Leave that to me. I will think of some plan. Come to my office at this hour tomorrow, and I will summon both the suitors to meet you there."

"Very well. I will do as you say. But you do not seem to understand that a soldier is trained to disregard danger, and the major will win."

"We shall see."

The next day Hans reached the doctor's office a few minutes before the others, the doctor having summoned him a little earlier than they.

"Hans," said the doctor, "when I was a boy I loved a little girl. There is no passion in childhood love; it is absolutely pure. I wish you to construct a poem describing this love stealing over me while I was sitting with my little girl one summer evening watching the sunset."

"I will do so tomorrow. But why have you sent for me, doctor?"

"Begin the construction of the poem at once. It must be finished within an hour. If it is successful Lisa may be yours."

"How so?" asked the boy, wondering how a poem could produce such a result.

"Ask no questions, but do as I tell you."

Hans threw himself back into an easy chair and in imagination became a boy sitting beside his child love watching a beautiful sunset. Colonel Visser came in with the major. The colonel cast a contemptuous glance at the poet, who sat staring at the newcomers with his great black eyes. The major, a fine looking fellow, with a strong face and military bearing, looked about him wondering. The doctor brought something, evidently a box, covered with a cloth from a closet and set it on a stool in the middle of the room. As soon as it was in place he withdrew the cloth, exposing a glass case in which was a rattlesnake. The viper was darting his vicious eyes from one to the other, showing at the same time his venomous tongue.

"Major," said the doctor, "my friend, Colonel Visser, before giving you his daughter desires to test your bravery. There is a rattlesnake so confined that he is harmless. Do you think you could place your hand on the glass and let him strike at it without withdrawing it?"

The major stepped forward as imperturbably as he had entered upon many a duty on the field of battle and placed his hand on the glass. The serpent made a spring for it, thumping the glass. The major jerked away his hand as if he had been bitten. Coloring with mortification, he placed it a second time on the glass and withdrew it as quickly as before. Again and again he tried it and every time failed.

"That will do," said the doctor. "Hans, come here."

Hans arose and came forward.

"Put your hand on the glass," said the doctor.

Hans mechanically stretched forth his hand and rested it upon the glass. The serpent struck at it, but Hans was in a dream and did not know it.

"That will do," said the doctor. "Gentlemen, the object for which I summoned you has been accomplished. Good morning."

The major went out smarting under

his inability to keep his hand where there was nothing but the seeping of danger. Hans stood looking out of the window. The doctor, who was near him, heard him mutter:

"But faint and sweet, like distant strains from strings in a summer night. Come thoughts of the childhood sympathy. That brought me such delight."

"That'll do, Hans," said the doctor. "You may go. What do you think of his nerve, colonel?"

"Splendid. What a pity he isn't a soldier! He has won Lisa, and he shall have her."

He was standing before the snake's case and was tempted to place his hand on the glass. The snake sprang up, and the colonel sprang back.

"Great heavens!" he exclaimed. "If my men saw me do that they would despise me!"

"Don't trouble yourself, colonel. None of them could do it. Hans is the only man I have ever seen accomplish it."

And Hans could not have done it except through oblivion to the danger. The nerves which directed the motion act independently of the will. But the colonel did not know that.

— DWIGHT COOK.

#### Japan Coal Mines.

The value of the coal mined in Japan is almost equal to that of all the other minerals combined. It varies from the hardest anthracite to peat, but the quality is usually inferior to that of American coal.

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## AMERICA IN MANCHURIA

### New York Engineer's Views Upon the Outlook.

#### HOW RUSSIA'S AUTHORITY AIDS US

Sergey Friede Says If We Urged Her to Withdraw From Manchuria American Merchants Would Be Deprived of Millions Annually—Industrious Natives Prefer Russian Rule.

The story of America's commercial conquest of Manchuria belongs to New York, for it was a New York engineer who first penetrated the wilds of Manchuria to meet the Russian engineers surveying the railroad and to secure for America the contracts for construction material and equipment, says the New York Tribune. He was M. Sergey Friede, a young engineer, who, in 1895, learning of Russia's intention to build railroads in Manchuria, determined to explore the land in advance of all rivals, and even the Russian engineers themselves, and to await their arrival in central Manchuria to convince them that America could supply more cheaply than could any other nation the materials and supplies Russia needed for the development of her new acquisition. So successful was Mr. Friede that he soon began cabling orders home for the construction material and equipment necessary for the building of the new railway, and as the road advanced and Russia poured in a new population and built cities to house the newcomers it was necessary to bring other Americans to Manchuria to establish branch offices in these growing Russian cities, until now there is a considerable Yankee colony in that part of Asia.

"Knowing Manchuria as I do," said Mr. Friede, "from the pioneer days of 1895, when I crossed it alone at the peril of my life in tiny native wagons along trails that could never be called roads, until I saw the country transformed by the expenditure of Russia's millions, cities springing up in waste places, railways racing across mountains and plains more rapidly than had ever railways been built before, and the whole land brought under the civilizing influence of the American locomotive and the Yankee electric light, I cannot but feel that the time has come for Americans to look at Manchuria with our own eyes and not as we have always done—through British glasses. Russia, with America's aid, has made it what it is. We are the nearest to Russia's possessions in the far east, and will always be the ones to receive the greatest benefit by Russia's prodigious expenditures. She has built her railroads to develop trade, not stifle it; she gladly buys our flour mills to grind wheat grown in Manchuria; pays hundreds of thousands of Manchurian wages that enable them to buy our cottons, and induces merchants of all nations to settle in the cities she builds along the line of the railway. In our first flush of excitement we must not forget that, if we urge her to withdraw, under Chinese rule our merchants would not be permitted to remain for a moment except in the open ports of which we ask for two, one of which, Mukden, the capital, is a straggling city of 20,000 persons, hundreds of miles away from the seacoast and reached only by the Russian railway."

"For Russia to retire from Manchuria is impractical. It would deprive American merchants and manufacturers of millions annually and would mean that the country would relapse into barbarism and the hundreds of millions Russia has expended would be lost to her, for the Manchurians still successfully waylay travelers and even wreck trains, so that it is necessary to guard the railway for almost its entire length. Americans are welcomed in Manchuria, the Russians taking up eagerly our new inventions in labor saving devices; in fact it was the adoption of one of these, the American steam rock drill, that brought about the first strike known in Russian Asia. I had induced the engineers to order a sample lot, and on their arrival we started them to work. The Manchurians, who had been accustomed to chipping away the rocks and boulders by hand, suddenly watched the Yankee machines thumping away, guided by invisible hands, and then at the touch of a button the charge of dynamite sent the boulders flying in every direction. It was more than they could comprehend, so they threw down their tools, refusing to work with the white man's spirit devils. The engineers were annoyed; but, thoroughly convinced that they could complete the railway perhaps years in advance of the time hoped for by use of the American steam rock drill, they refused to give way, the Manchurians returned sullenly to work and from that day to this Russia in the far east has looked to us to help her out of many difficulties. The Manchurians shortly after became involved in the Boxer outbreak, and many foreigners were imprisoned in the little Russian cities already springing up, the rails were torn up and the wooden bridges were burned by the Boxers. "Nor are the exciting times yet over. I have representatives in all the larger cities of Manchuria, despite the fact that there are no open ports there, but I would not yet care to cross the country without the protection of Russian authority. There are 20,000,000 Manchurians in the 400,000 square miles of this prefer Russian rule, and the Chinese merchants pour in from beyond Peking to escape the mandarins, who are permitted to pillage them at will in every other part of the empire. But there is an immense lawless element that it will take all Russia's military strength in Manchuria to subdue,

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and it is on the natives she depends for the work of draining extensive areas, reclaiming waste lands and building towns for the incoming white population. Convicts are no longer sent to Siberia. It costs more to feed and house them than to hire the Manchurians. Russia welcomes every one into Manchuria who brings an idea that will aid her in the development of the land, but she has many difficulties to overcome and asks to be let alone until she can complete her work. Already she has spent within two years some \$20,000,000 in building Dulay, the Pacific terminus of the trans-Asiatic railway, and making it ready for the commerce of the world. She has raised the commerce of Manchuria from nothing to millions. We are the greatest gainers, and it behooves us to aid rather than hinder Russia in the development of a rich, fertile region that without her boundless expenditures would be as worthless to us as Korea."

#### Mable's Estimate of Emerson.

In his article on Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1903 in Harper's Magazine for May, Hamilton W. Mable thus sums up his estimate of Emerson's work:

"Concerning the quality and rank of his work there is general agreement. He has survived the reaction which follows the death of a writer of original and individual force. The defects of his prose, the limitations of his verse, are clear enough, but the depth of his insight, the lift of his thought, the freshness of his spirit, the felicity of his speech and its penetration, the wholeness and symmetry of his life—these are far beyond the region of questioning. He explained America to herself in terms of the spiritual life, he set man in his true place in the new world, he has kept the conscience of the nation and established for all time the doctrine that the success or failure of the new society shall be measured by its service in the emancipation of the soul, the exaltation of man."

#### A Progressive Chinaman.

Wan Wen Tsao, recently appointed minister of foreign affairs of China and virtually premier of the empire, is one of the most progressive of modern Celestials. He is said to be an enthusiastic advocate of occidental diplomacy and of introducing the latest inventions in the domain of science. It was Wan Wen Tsao who was mainly instrumental in effecting the early closing of the late war and who has until now, more than any other Chinese diplomat, been active in the suppression of the antiforeign revolts. He is regarded as the most powerful man in China, even more powerful than was the late Li Hung Chang. He occupied a place in the cabinet during the long tour abroad of Li Hung Chang and has been entrusted since with many high posts.

## NO WASHING IN OMAHA.

Laundries Close Down Because of Big Strike.

Omaha, May 12.—The strike situation in Omaha has been further complicated by the closing down of eighteen of the largest laundries in the city and the locking out of 500 laundry workers. This action was taken by the laundrymen after an extended conference and the reception by them of a request from the Laundry Workers' union that they do not attempt work for hotels, restaurants and other places which have been declared "unfair."

President Kimball of the Tricity Laundrymen's club says the union does not represent a majority of the laundry workers. He said there were sufficient nonunion employees left to run the laundries, but he feared for the safety of the employees and that therefore the laundry men had decided to close indefinitely. Some work which had accumulated Saturday and Sunday will be cleaned up during the day in some of the largest concerns, however, and then the shut down will be general. Mr. Kimball said that there was an understanding with the laundries of South Omaha and Council Bluffs that no Omaha work should be accepted by them.

#### Defalcation of an Ethnologist.

Washington, May 12.—Further investigation of the case of Frank M. Barnett, a clerk in the bureau of ethnology, from Alabama, who was arrested Saturday charged with stealing money from the government, discloses the fact that his method was to open fictitious accounts, crediting certain names with alleged services rendered to the bureau. These accounts would be passed in the regular way and checks drawn for the amounts. Barnett would then intercept the checks. The total sum thus procured was \$500.

#### Laying the German Atlantic Cable.

Berlin, May 12.—The laying of a duplicate German Atlantic cable has been commenced at Borkum, an island in the North sea twenty-six miles from Emden. A large number of people attended the ceremony, and cheers were given for the German emperor and the president of the United States. In the evening there was a banquet, which was attended by the principal representatives of the company and cable interests. Patriotic speeches were delivered emphasizing the relationship between Germany and the United States.

#### Excitement in Cotton Market.

New York, May 12.—The wildest excitement in cotton this season occurred when an enormous covering movement was started by an unexpected advance of 11 to 14 points in Liverpool, attended by heavy sales of spot cotton in the English market. The local market responded with an advance of 15 to 24 points on the more active months, new high records in all cases being made. The bull clique realized heavily in order to avert a bear panic, which at one time appeared inevitable.

#### To Take Al Adams to Dannemora.

Ossining, N. Y., May 12.—Superintendent of Prisons Collins has decided to remove Al Adams, the ex-policy king, now serving a sentence in Sing Sing prison, to the State hospital at Dannemora. The hospital is connected with Clinton prison, and all prisoners who are seriously sick are sent there. Miller, of 520 per cent syndicate fame, who is suffering from consumption in the Sing Sing prison hospital, is also to be removed to the State hospital.

#### Joaquin Miller's Family Prostrated.

Saratoga, N. Y., May 12.—Mrs. Joaquin Miller and Miss Juanita Miller, wife and daughter of Joaquin Miller, who was erroneously reported dead at his home on Mount Tamalpais, near Oakland, Cal., were prostrated when they were told that Mr. Miller was dead. They had received no word from California, but were soon told of the denial of the report. Mr. Miller passed the winter and early spring in Saratoga.

#### Business in Victoria Demoralized.

Melbourne, Victoria, May 12.—The train service, owing to the railroad strike, is most limited, and all business is hampered. The sittings of the country and circuit courts have been postponed, and the principal timber yards are closed. The strikers have issued a manifesto in which they say they are only fighting for freedom of action after working hours.



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Anyone who has dyspepsia, indigestion, headaches, dizzy feelings, or liver troubles, should take advantage of this chance to be made well without any risk of spending their money to no purpose. Mi-o-na will cure; will regulate the digestion; will enable anyone to eat what he wants. If it does not do all this, the medicine will not cost you a cent.

The Red Cross Pharmacy has sold hundreds of boxes of Mi-o-na in the last few weeks and has yet to receive the first complaint from any customer. Such a record is simply marvelous and speaks volumes for the merits of the remedy.

It is easy enough to fill a column with the symptoms afflicting those who have dyspepsia, but there is no need of describing their condition. What they want is a cure. And they have it in Mi-o-na. Do not suffer a day longer with disordered digestion. If Mi-o-na cures you it costs 50¢ a box, and if it does not you have the Red Cross Pharmacy's personal guarantee to return your money.

### SAVED BY A TAGAL GIRL.

Lieutenant Gordon Will Reward Her With an American Education.

A pretty little romance, whose present chapter is the placing of a bright eyed Filipino girl in an American home to be educated, is being discussed with great interest by the villagers of Pittsfield, Mo., says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Sylvia Dolz, the half grown daughter of a Tagal chieftain, is handsome and full of bounding life, with the piercing eyes of her countrymen, the vivacity of a Spanish girl and the fascinating ways of orientals. She is to be educated in the United States as a reward for saving the life of Lieutenant Charles F. Gordon of the Twenty-seventh United States Infantry, and she will live at the home of his mother in Pittsfield.

It was just outside Malaban that the Twenty-seventh had a severe encounter with the Tagalogs, and Lieutenant Gordon was severely wounded. A blow from a sword in the hands of one of the Filipino soldiers rendered him unconscious. He was left on the field for dead, but when he came to a little Filipino girl was bathing his head with water from a gourd. She gave him some whisky to drink and then had him removed to the camp of the Tagalogs.

Lieutenant Gordon was held prisoner for several weeks, and during that time the girl—Sylvia Dolz—became very much attached to him. Eventually the lieutenant was rescued and a number of Tagalogs taken captive. Among them was Sylvia and her father. Their friendship continued, and when Lieutenant Gordon talked of returning to America Sylvia was inconsolable. It was finally arranged that she should accompany him, and they arrived in Pittsfield at the home of Lieutenant Gordon's mother only a few days ago.

Sylvia is very much interested in the strange country and the ways of Americans. She takes aptly to her surroundings, and it is believed that her education will be an easy task.

### GLASS EYE FOR A LION.

One of the Eyeballs of a \$20,000 Animal Removed.

Prince, a lion which is valued at \$20,000 and exhibited by Bostock, had his eyes injured in a recent fight, says a special dispatch from Richmond, Va., to the New York World. Prince was lassoed the other day, his feet were tied, he was lashed to the bars of the operating cage and one of his eyeballs was removed.

Bostock's artist has prepared a water color drawing of the sound eye and an order has been placed for a glass one. As soon as the wound has sufficiently healed to permit the placing of the new eye Prince will bear the distinction of wearing the only glass optic ever made for a live lion.

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